

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all previous versions and listings of claims in this application.

Claims 1 to 21. (Cancelled)

22. (Original) A method for preserving the cutting edge of a utensil, the method comprising the steps of:

preparing an emulsion that includes at least one of a water-soluble salt of an ether compound or a chloride compound in an amount sufficient to maintain oxide portions of the cutting edge, a hydrophobic substance in an amount sufficient to reduce water contact with the cutting edge of the utensil; and an alcohol in an amount sufficient to assist in solubilizing the hydrophobic substance, and

immersing the cutting edge of the utensil in the emulsion to preserve the sharpness of the cutting edge to facilitate longer service of utensil.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22, further comprising mixing and homogenizing the edge preservation compound, the hydrophobic substance, and alcohol to form an emulsion; and allowing the homogenized emulsion to stand for about 24 to 32 hours prior to immersion of the edge into the emulsion.

24. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the water-soluble salt of an ether compound is sodium sulphate lauryl ether.

25. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the chloride compound is cetyltrimethyl ammonium chloride.

26. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the hydrophobic substance is selected from the group consisting of: soap base, anhydrous lanolin, liquid glycerin, and any combination thereof.

27. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the alcohol is selected from the group consisting of: triethanolamine, ketostearrylic alcohol, and a combination thereof.

28. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the emulsion further comprises a component selected from the group consisting of aloe vera glycolic extract; propolis glycolic extract; propylene glycol; methyl parabene; hydrolyzed wheat oil; hydrolyzed soya oil; fragrance; coloring agent, and any combination thereof.

29. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the emulsion further includes a reagent for reducing the deposition of oxide on the metal.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein the reagent is a lubricant.

31. (Original) The method of claim 29 wherein the reagent is present in an amount between about 0.5% to 2.0 % of the weight of the emulsion.

32. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the metal utensil is selected from the group consisting of, tool steels, knives, cutlery, blades, scalpels, scissors, clippers, cutters, manicure tools, and surgical tools.

33. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the metal utensil is fabricated from a material selected from the group consisting of stainless steel, iron, steel and alloys thereof.

34. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the metal utensil is made of a metal having shape memory properties and immersion of the cutting edge of the utensil in the emulsion is sufficient to allow the metal to recover a previous molecular arrangement of its shape memory properties.

35. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein immersion of the cutting edge of the utensil in the emulsion is conducted for a time sufficient to provide and maintain a chromic oxide protective film on the cutting edge.

36. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein immersion of the cutting edge of the utensil in the emulsion is conducted for a time sufficient to prevent formation of iron oxide on the surface of the cutting edge.

37. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the emulsion comprises a soap base, sodium sulphate lauryl ether, ketostearyl alcohol, cetyltrimethyl ammonium chloride, anhydrous lanolin, liquid glycerin, and triethanolamine in combined amounts effective to preserve the edge of the utensil when immersed therein.

38. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein, in the emulsion, the soap base is present in an amount between about 5-15%, sodium sulphate lauryl ether is present in an amount between about 3 to 7%; the ketostearyl alcohol is present in an amount between about 2 to 4%; the cetyltrimethyl ammonium chloride is present in an amount between about 2 to 4%; the anhydrous lanolin is present in an amount between about 3 to 7%; the glycerin is present in an amount between about 3 to 7%; triethanolamine is present in an amount between about 0.5 to 1.5.

39. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the emulsion further comprises an additive selected from the group consisting of: aloe vera glycolic extract; propolis glycolic extract; propylene glycol; methyl parabene; hydrolyzed wheat oil; hydrolyzed soya oil; fragrance; mineral oil and coloring agent, or any combination thereof.

40. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein the aloe vera glycolic extract is present in a proportion between about 1 to 3%; the propolis glycolic extract is present in a proportion of between about 1 to 3%; the propylene glycol is present in a proportion of between about 0.3 to 0.7%; the methyl parabene is present in a proportion between about 0.1 to 0.3%; the hydrolyzed wheat oil is present in a proportion of between about 0.3 to 0.7%; the hydrolyzed

soya oil is present in a proportion of between about 0.3 and 0.7%; the fragrance is present in a proportion of between about 0.3 and 0.7%; the coloring agent is present in a proportion of about 0.01%.

41. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein the emulsion comprises sodium sulphate lauryl ether, liquid glycerin, triethanolamine, aloe vera glycolic extract; propolis glycolic extract; fragrance; propylene glycol; methyl parabene; coloring agent; and water.

42. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein the glycerin is present in a proportion of about 3 to 7%, the aloe vera glycolic extract is present in a proportion of about 1 to 3%, the propolis glycolic extract is present in a proportion of about 1 to 3%, the fragrance is present in a proportion of about 0.3 to 0.7%, the triethanolamine is present in a proportion of about 1 and 3%, the propylene glycol is present in a proportion of about 0.3 to 0.7%, the methyl parabene is present in a proportion of about 0.1 to 0.3%, the propyl parabene is present in a proportion of about 0.1 to 0.3%, the color is present in a proportion of about 0.01%.

43. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein the sodium sulphate lauryl ether is present in an amount of about 15 to 25%.

44. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein the cetyltrimethyl ammonium chloride is present in an amount of about 15 to 25%